The Joy of Generosity

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Pastor Anne Swallow Gillis, Presiding
Jessica Christenson, CYF Director
Karina Roth, Musical Director
10:00 AM | November 8, 2026 | Setting 4

Belonging to Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore & Beyond!

A friendly welcome to each worshiper! We are pleased to have each of you here to glorify God and sing praises to the Almighty.

INTRODUCTION

This week our stewardship emphasis will explore **"The Joy of Living in Community."** We are called together in joy by a God who has a soft spot for community. One of Jesus' most famous commandments to his followers is **"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34).**

Living together as Bethlehem, we strive to keep this commandment. Our Church in Society Committee leads us in a Mission of the Month throughout the year; our CYF ministry reaches families who are unchurched; we open our building to community groups who need space; we offer meals for the community and never turn people away because of money; we lift up the needs of people and places in prayer.

As you prepare for worship, think about how you have contributed to our congregation's love for one another and benefited from this love. Think also about the important ways your gifts of money and time have made possible the ministries that help the congregation keep Jesus' commandment.

PRELUDE — Karina Roth

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK: STEWARDSHIP — Gwen Lenz

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *All Are Welcome* ELW 641
(Verses 1, 3, 5)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE ELW page 147

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *This Is The Feast* ELW page 149

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of justice and love, **you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME Jess Christenson

On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting "Noisy Change" for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger.

FIRST READING EXODUS 35:20-29

20 Then all the congregation of the Israelites withdrew from the presence of
Moses. 21 And they came, everyone whose heart was stirred and everyone
whose spirit was willing, and brought the Lord's offering to be used for the
tent of meeting and for all its service and for the sacred vestments. 22 So
they came, both men and women; all who were of a willing heart brought
brooches and earrings and signet rings and pendants, all sorts of gold
objects, everyone bringing an offering of gold to the Lord. 23 And
everyone who possessed blue or purple or crimson yarn or fine linen or

goats' hair or tanned rams' skins or fine leather[a] brought them.
24 Everyone who could make an offering of silver or bronze brought it as
the Lord's offering, and everyone who possessed acacia wood of any use
in the work brought it. 25 All the skillful women spun with their hands and
brought what they had spun in blue and purple and crimson yarns and
fine linen; 26 all the women whose hearts moved them to use their skill
spun the goats' hair. 27 And the leaders brought onyx stones and gems to
be set in the ephod and the breastpiece 28 and spices and oil for the light
and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense. 29 All the Israelite
men and women whose hearts made them willing to bring anything for
the work that the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done brought it
as a freewill offering to the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM PSALM 133

1 How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
2 It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
3 It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

SECOND READING: ACTS 2:43-47

43 Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being
done through the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all
things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and
distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Day by day, as they spent
much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their
food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having the
goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their
number those who were being saved.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia* ELW page 151

The holy gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL JOHN 13:31-35

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been
glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in
him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33 Little
children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I
said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'
34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I
have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will
know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pastor Anne Swallow Gillis

The Joy of Living in a Christian Community:
Caring for Each Other

HYMN OF THE DAY *Christ, Be Our Light* ELW 715

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. *(A brief silence.)*

You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict . Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. We pray especially these we name before you now *for Abby. Virginia, Karina, Patty, Bonnie, Gene, Luke, Sarah, & Katrina*. We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. *(A time of silence)*. We lift to You all those dealing with issues of mental health or addiction. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

OFFERING

Karina Roth

On-line giving is encouraged using this QR Code

OFFERING PRAYER

God of all creation, **all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY — ELW page 153

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. All are welcome!

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. **All persons**, whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion. (Offered in these sacraments are wine or apple juice; and regular or gluten-free wafers.)*

COMMUNION MUSIC & CANDLE LIGHTING

Lamb of God — ELW page 191

Ubi caritas et amor — ELW 627

Where True Charity and Love Abide

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in grace unto everlasting life. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. The God of all grace ✢ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Take My Life, That I May Be* ELW 583

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Karina Roth

Thank you to The Reverend Anne Swallow Gillis for presiding during our service today. A United Church of Christ Pastor for over 40 years, Anne has served congregations and healthcare chaplaincy settings in California, the Washington DC metropolitan area and Minnesota. Most recently, she was the Interim Pastor at First Congregational UCC here in Grand Marais. She is retired from full–time ministry. With her husband Chris Gillis, they now call Grand Marais "home."

Pastor Calvin & Ashley are celebrating their 10-year anniversary in Paris! They will be gone Nov. 2-15. Pastor Anne Swallow Gillis will be our guest preacher on Nov. 8th & 15th. Pastor Rolf Mork will be our guest preacher on Wednesday Nov. 11th. If you have pastoral needs while Pastor is gone, please contact the office 218-387-2227, or Denise's cell #218-370-1058.

We pray for healing for these members & friends: Abby Spry, Virginia Hahn, Karina Roth, Patty Nelson, Bonnie Hromidko, Shae Lindholm, Gene Erickson, Mary Sanders, Ed Hedstrom, Milly Gestel, Linda Zenk, Stacey Johnson, Nancy Koss, Lois Johnson, Butch & Rhonda Schulte, Luke Gulstrand, Sarah Coe, Char Anderson, Phyllis Olson, Paulina Backstrom, Stacey Schulte, Hank Ferland, Katrina Crouse, Karen Shannon, Tom Christiansen.

This week we lift up these members: Kelsey, Patrick & Leah ONeill; Kay Olson; Dick & Becky Kayser; Will, Nan, Eddie & Arthur Onkka; and Brian & Marcy Olsen. May God walk with these friends in their journey of peace.

Our sincere sympathies to Laura Dahl Popkes, Paul Dahl and family for the loss of their mother. We received this note from Laura last week: "We wanted to let you know that our mom, Margaret Dahl, finally got her wish and passed through the pearly gates this week. We are all grateful for the peace she experienced as she met her Savior face to face. Thank you Bethlehem for the prayers over these past months."

Mission of the Month for November: **Empty Bowls/Vital North - Cook County.** Empty Bowls supports 39 different food distribution organizations in this county. We also want to encourage the people of Bethlehem to bring **food shelf donations** to church this month. Particularly, they could use food for Thanksgiving such as: **canned meats, chili, stews, coffee, (some of the more expensive items for the holidays).**

This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun Nov. 8	8:40 AM	Choir Practice
	10:00 AM	**Worship Service**
		& Sunday School
	3:30 PM	Borealis Orchestra practice
	5:00 PM	Borealis Chorale practice
Mon Nov 9	1:00 PM	Girl Scouts
Tues Nov 10	8:30 AM	Staff meeting
Wed Nov 11	12:30 PM	Text Study
	5:30 PM	Community Meal
	6:00 PM	**Worship Service**
	6:30 PM	Confirmation Class
Thur Nov 12	8:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
	9:00 AM	Quilting
	9:30 AM	BLCW Esther Circle
	11:00 AM	Meatball Baking
Fri Nov 13	8:00 AM	Rye Bread Making
Sat. Nov 14	4:00PM	1st seating Lutefisk dinner
	6:00 PM	2nd seating Lutefisk dinner
Sun Nov 15	8:40 AM	Choir Practice
	10:00 AM	**Worship Service**
		& Sunday School
	3:30 PM	Borealis Orchestra practice
	5:00 PM	Borealis Chorale practice

Upcoming Events:

November 13: Rye Bread Making Day starts at 8:00 am. Talk to Sue Hennessy if you can help.

November 14: Lutefisk Dinner, 4:00 & 6:00 pm seatings (Hospitality teams: Patti Beyer, Robin Johnson, Cindy Muus & Kathy Johnson)

November 22: December newsletter articles due.

November 29: Advent Begins!

1st Week of December: Christmas Tree set up and decorating. Date to be determined by Kent Anderson. We'd like to get families to help with this. Check in with Pastor or Jess.

December 5: Hanging of the Greens (Time to be determined. Talk to Janet Simonen or Hilja Iverson)

December 11 & 12: Borealis Concerts, 7:00 pm. (Hospitality Teams: Dec. 11th Gwen Lenz & Kris Hedstrom, and Dec. 12th: Joy Oberg)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
417 First Avenue West, PO Box 638
Grand Marais, MN 55604
218-387-2227
www.sharingchrist.org | blc@boreal.org

Borealis Orchestra & Chorale: Practice times are 3:30pm for the Orchestra; and 5:00pm for the Chorale. Performances will be Dec. 11 & 12, 7:00pm.

Wednesday Text Study: Join us at 12:30 pm on Wednesdays for a study of the scripture lessons for the next Sunday. Zoom available

Men's Bible Study: Every Thursday morning, beginning at 8:00 to 9:15 am. Contact Mike Chmelik for information, 218-387-1790

Help with Sunday Services: sign up to help with worship using this QR Code.

Quilters are seeking more helpers! Every Thursday morning at 9 to 11:30am. Come as you are able.

Grocery Cards are available from BLCW to community members who need help with food insecurity. Contact the office.

Traveler Cards are available from BLC to members of the community that need to travel out-of-town for medical appointments. Contact the office.

Free Bibles Bethlehem has a supply of bibles for all ages including Lutheran Study Bible and young children's bibles. Please talk to Jess or Pastor if you

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